

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

OFA-01 DLOS-04 NEA-10 /075 W
----- 041719

R 191629Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4686

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 13444

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, CA

SUBJECT: GROMYKO VISIT TO CANADA: SCHEDULING INTERMESSO

1. AT POL COUNSELORS' MEETING SEPT 18, CANADIAN REP REPORTED CONTREDANSE IN SCHEDULING GROMYKO TRIP TO CANADA WHICH CANADIANS FEEL MUST HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY (UNKNOWN) EXTRA-BILATERAL UNCERTAINTIES.
 2. ACCORDING CANADIAN, SOVIET CHARGE IN OTTAWA WENT IN ON PERSONAL INSTRUCTIONS FROM GROMYKO TO TELL MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS THAT HE REGRETTED BEING UNABLE TO COME TO OTTAWA, ON THE GROUNDS THAT HIS SCHEDULE WAS OVERBURDENED AND THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO MAKE ONLY A HASTY TRIP. AS A RESULT, CANADIAN AMBASSADOR FORD WAS INSTRUCTED TO CALL ON V.P. SUSLOV (CHIEF OF MFA SECOND EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT, WHICH HANDLES CANADA), BUT SUSLOV RESTRICTED HIMSELF TO QUOTING OTTAWA DEMARCHE VERBATIM AND EMPHASIZING IT CAME FROM GROMYKO HIMSELF. THEN, ON SEPT 17, CANADIANS HERE WERE SUDDENLY INFORMED THAT GROMYKO WISHED TO VISIT CANADA SEPT 25-26, AND UNDERSTOOD TRIP WOULD BE AGREED FOR THESE DATES.
 3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, SOURCE EXPRESSED VIEW IT IS ALMOST INCONCEIVABLE SOVIETS WOULD HAVE BEEN SIGNALLING
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DISPLEASURE OVER FISHERIES MATTERS, SINCE JOINT COMMISSION

MEETINGS IN HALIFAX HAD REACHED AGREEMENT ON SIX OF EIGHT
DISPUTED CLAIMS, AND WHOLE MATTER PRACTICALLY DEFUSED.

4. COMMENT. SOURCE SAID AMBASSADOR FORD SUSPECTED JOG HAD
SOMETHING TO DO WITH MIDDLE EAST DISCUSSIONS. WE PASS ON
REPORT FOR WHAT IT MAY BE WORTH. END COMMENT.
MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ITINERARY, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOSCOW13444
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750326-0494
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750935/aaaabfdp.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <25 SEP 2003 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GROMYKO VISIT TO CANADA: SCHEDULING INTERMESSO
TAGS: PFOR, UR, CA, (GROMYKO, ANDREY ANDREYEVICH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006